

SOME BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ON CHRISTIAN LIVING  
Outline by Willis E. Bishop

I. The assurance of salvation rightly understood is a great foundation for the Christian life.

- (1) the simplicity of Romans 10:13 -- a conscious, genuine commitment
- (2) the guarantee of John 10:28 -- eternal life is a gift - "they shall never perish"
- (3) the clear distinction between faith and feeling  
2 Corinthians 5:7
  - due to our different personalities some may have a different feeling after salvation -- some may not. In either case the feeling does not save.
  - after salvation a person may have different feelings from day to day, but that does not change the fact of salvation
  - you do not earn salvation - Ephesians 2:8,9
  - you do not work to keep salvation - Galatians 3:2,3,11
  - you depend upon the statements of Scripture for your assurance of salvation - I John 5:12,13, i.e., by faith

Note: It is wrong to assume that because you are saved you are at liberty to do what you want or live as you would like, contrary to the principles of Scripture. The Lord holds you responsible for the way you think and live.  
2 Corinthians 5:8-10

II. There are three kinds of Christians (i.e., genuinely saved)

- (1) newborn babes - I Peter 2:2
  - salvation is not an end but a beginning of new life - 2 Corinthians 5:17
  - the correct "diet" is the Word (i.e., the Scriptures) -- see paragraph III
- (2) carnal Christians - I Corinthians 3:1 (Greek: "fleshly")
  - i.e., following their own desires (cf. Galatians 5:19-21)
  - the word "babes" here means "childish, simple, no growth"
- (3) mature Christians - I Corinthians 2:6
  - "perfect" means "mature or full grown"

III. Personal devotions play an important part in Christian growth.

- (1) Bible reading -- establish a regular habit of Bible reading

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- you feed your physical body on a regular basis --  
why not your spiritual self?

2 Timothy 2:5

"study" - "be diligent" - it takes a little  
work!

"rightly dividing" - "handling accurately"  
means properly interpreting

The Bible was written to be understood; therefore, "when the plain sense of Scripture makes [good] common sense, seek no other sense"; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate otherwise."

### (2) Prayer

- prayer is not difficult, but it is important -  
1 Thessalonians 5:17
- speak respectfully to the Lord as to a trusted  
friend, for indeed He is just that!
- include in your prayer A C T S, i.e., Adoration,  
Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication  
(or Requests)

Suggestion: You should have a regular quiet time and place for devotions. This should be when your mind is alert. At other times, a spare moment can be spent in Bible reading. And pray as the need or occasion arises.

Daniel 6:10 - three times a day

David, Psalm 55:17 - "evening, morning and noon"

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "without ceasing"

- outside the New Testament the Greek word for  
"without ceasing" was used of a hacking cough,  
i.e., as a person is not always audibly cough-  
ing, the tendency is always there -- just so a  
Christian is not always praying but the  
attitude of prayer is always present!

- IV. Certain practices are to be found in a good Christian life.  
(Not to gain salvation, but because you are saved.)  
Titus 3:8 - "they who have believed in God might be  
careful to maintain good works"

### (1) regular Church attendance

Hebrews 10:24,25 - "not forsaking...assembling...  
together"

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-- if you spend 90-100% of your time with non-Christians and 10-0% of your time with Christians, which group has the greater influence?

I Corinthians 15:33 - "evil company corrupts good morals [habits]"

-- you and I are not perfect Christians and so we will not find a "perfect" church -- but that is no excuse for not going, especially since the Scripture implies [commands?] it

This attendance should not be at the expense of serious compromise; i.e., you should find a church where the Bible is believed and the true Gospel is preached and taught.

2 Corinthians 16:2 - "come ye out from among them"

(2) regular giving to the work of the Lord

I Corinthians 16:2 - "as God hath prospered him"  
2 Corinthians 8:11,12  
2 Corinthians 9:7

-- the question of the tithe and the storehouse in Malachi 3:8-20 was for Old Testament believers

-- be as careful where you "give" as where you "attend"

(3) regular witnessing for Christ

2 Corinthians 5:11-21  
Romans 1:14-16 - "debtor" "eager" "not ashamed"

Several suggestions:

- (a) you can witness if you know only John 3:16!
- (b) your own personal testimony of receiving Christ is useful
- (c) use good gospel tracts
- (d) use the "Roman road"

Romans 3:23                  Romans 6:23a  
Romans 5:8                  Romans 10:13  
add John 10:28 and I John 5:12, 13

V. A Christian must deal with temptation and sin in his life.  
(It is wrong to tell a person that when he becomes a Christian his troubles are over!)

- (1) it is not wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to yield to that temptation - James 1:2,13-15  
(remember, even Christ was tempted - Matthew 4:1-11)

(2) part of a Christian's defense against temptation from:

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- (a) the world - Romans 12:1,2 - "be not conformed"
- (b) the flesh - 2 Timothy 2:22 - "flee...youthful  
lusts
- (c) the devil - James 4:7 - "resist the devil and  
he will flee..."  
see also Psalm 119:11 and  
I Timothy 6:11,12

- (3) if a believer sins, he should immediately seek  
forgiveness - I John 1:9-2:2  
Psalm 51:1-4a,12

-- sin destroys the joy in a Christian's life,  
and forgiveness restores it (the joy)

Note: The Christian life is really a happy life!

Warning: A believer can insist on continuing in his sin  
until the Lord (in His wisdom) brings sickness  
or death to the believer!  
I John 5:16b-18 ) be careful of our judgment  
I Corinthians 11:30 ) of others - remember Job

### VI. Some things a Christian should remember:

- (1) his body is the temple of the Holy Spirit  
Romans 8:9 - every believer is "indwelt" by the  
Holy Spirit  
I Corinthians 6:19b - "ye are not your own"  
I Corinthians 6:20b - "glorify God in your body"

-- it is the believer's responsibility, therefore, to  
care for the body as best he can in order to honor  
the Lord! E.g., what about unwise eating? drink-  
ing alcoholic beverages? using drugs? smoking?  
overwork? etc.?

-- no Christian should entertain any sensuous impulse  
which he does not honestly believe to be within  
the bounds of pure Christian monogamous marriage  
Matthew 5:27-30 - this is not spoken by  
a fanatic, but by the Lord of Glory!

e.g., what about indecent dress on the part of  
both men and women? most forms of dancing?  
living together before marriage? suggestive talk  
and jokes? pornographic pictures? sensuous music?  
many TV programs?, etc.?

- (2) his actions as a believer affect others  
I Corinthians 8:13

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-- not what offends my brother I'll not do --  
but what makes my brother to "stumble" I'll  
not do - see verses 1-12 for illustration  
e.g., what about the theater? the speed laws?,  
etc.?

(3) his actions should honor the Lord  
I Corinthians 10:31 - "whether ye eat or drink or  
whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God"  
Romans 13:13,14

(a) a partial list of actions prohibited

-- lying (Ephesians 4:25) - whatever a Christian  
says under any circumstance must be  
truthful

-- stealing (Ephesians 4:28)  
(2 Thessalonians 3:10) - we are to  
work for that which we have --  
what about gambling? Economic value  
is either lost or gained without giving  
any equivalent in service or material  
Read Ephesians 5:3-5

(b) a partial list of actions pleasing to the Lord

-- provide for his own household - I Timothy 5:8  
-- help others - Ephesians 4:28  
-- give to the Lord - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8  
-- "whatever ye do, do it heartily as to the  
Lord - Colossians 3:23

Note: This is the end of our study, but only the beginning of  
things related to a happy life as a Christian!!